(iv) Subscribers not using their dynamic STD lock.

(d) The various steps taken to recover the telephone revenue arrears are as follows:

1. Telephonic reminders are issued to the defaulting subscribers to clear their dues, failing which their telephones are disconnected.
2. Telephone Revenue Inspectors and field staff are deputed to visit the defaulting subscribers to pursue the clearing of dues, failing which other telephones of the defaulting subscribers are also disconnected.
3. Incentive is given to staff for ensuring early recovery of outstanding dues.
4. If the above steps do not bring results, recovery suits are filed against the defaulters wherever feasible.
5. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited sets annual targets for liquidation of outstanding for its field units and periodically monitors realisation against the targets fixed. Liquidation Boards in each unit/Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are functioning to liquidate old outstanding dues.
6. As per recent guidelines framed by BSNL, Circles have been authorised to utilise the services of the Police, Revenue and other Departments of the State Government, whenever necessary, and pay a commission of upto 1.5% of the amount recovered.

Refusal to provide funds for rural telephone facilities

†1818. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has turned down the demand of Bharat Sanchar Nigam for Rs. 2500 crores to make available telephone facilities in the villages;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Finance Ministry has also refused to grant the amount of Licence fee received from the Companies and service charges on the phones for village phone services during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance has provided Rs. 1500 crore in Demand No. 12 of the Department of Telecommunications in BE 2001-2002 a "Grants to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for rural telecom network" to be netted against the receipt of Rs. 1500 crore from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited towards licence fee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has fixed that 5% of Licence Fee would go towards funding village phone services as Universal Service Obligation.

Poor performance of MTNL's mobile phone services

1819. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new mobile phone started by MTNL is not giving satisfactory service;

(b) how many connections have been given so far;

(c) what is the reason for poor service; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Dolphin Cellular Mobile Service started by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is giving good service in Delhi and Mumbai Metro area.

(b) A total of 33,184 mobile connections in Delhi and 43,000 in